



A GREAT YEAR TO BE ALIVE

Despite troubles on many domestic and international fronts, most of us could echo the sentiment of the old-fashioned and somewhat this-worldly Saint who said: "Heaven is my home, but I'm not homesick." To the Christian, this world, as well as the next, is God's world. He loves this world of persons, and in Christ showed us how much He loves us and all mankind.

Nevertheless, the explosions of violence in the world disturb us. It is not a completely serene situation in which we are involved. Nor is it ever likely to be "peace, perfect peace in this dark world of sin" -- externally. Yet this is a great year in which we live. Like Christians of the early Church, and like Christians in subsequent turbulent eras, we may say confidently: "Don't just worry about what is coming to the world. Think of who has come to the world." His presence and program will not simplify complex problems. But his presence and plan for His followers provide light and power in which to find and apply working solutions.

It is a great time to be alive. Are we really alive_ - in the New Testament sense? Worshipping every week with God's. people, listening for His word in the Bible, in our prayers, in our study, in the events of our time, witnessing to Christ and His way in our work and play and giving to His cause - all show to how to be truly alive. Best of all, using such "means of grace" keeps us alive.

Richard Thomas, BSG
Superior

THE APPEAL FOR MISSION

Through our Appeal For Mission we ask your support for the work of the Order. Everyone is very aware of the "spiraling inflation" today and it effects us at least as much as it does you. But our Brotherhood Vestment Exchange is receiving more and more requests and our Intercession List is being sent to an ever-expanding readership through THE SERVANT (900 per month to date). The costs involved rise constantly and we must look to you for help.

Along with this issue you will find a self-addressed envelope for your gift. Please be as generous as you can. Of course, all donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided upon request.

May our Lords' blessing be upon you now and always!



AN INVITATION:

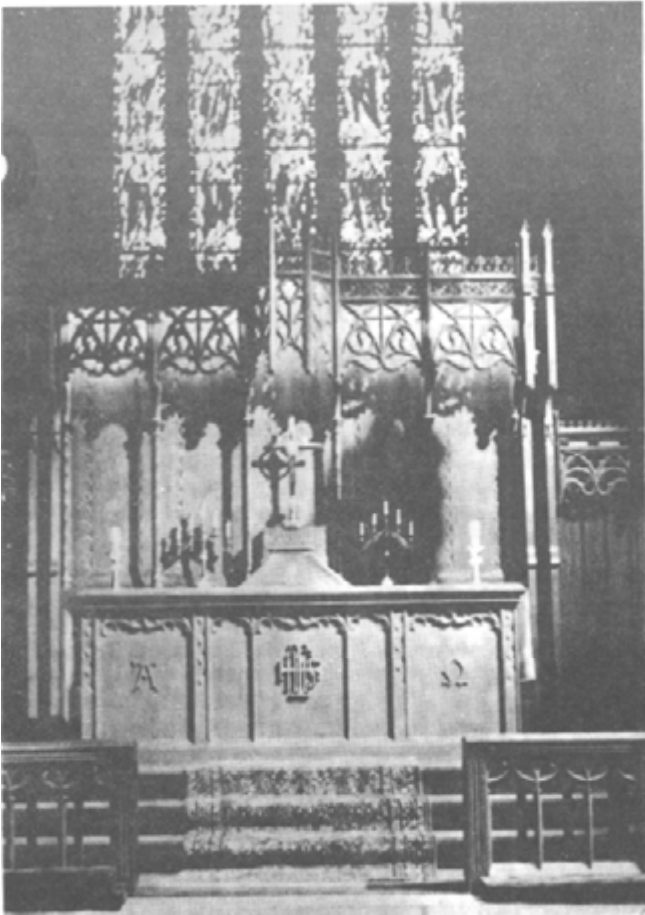
THE MASS OF THE ORDER, GENERAL CHAPTER 1981

On the weekend of September 11 thru 14 Brothers from across the country will assemble in White Plains, New York, for the 12th annual General Chapter of the Order. This is the time each year when all of the Brothers come together in Community for prayer, thanksgiving and renewal (and we also try to find time to conduct our annual "business meeting," as well!). The highlight of this four-day weekend has always been the Mass of the Order, which we are happy to share with as many of our Companions, friends and supporters as can possibly attend. Therefore, please accept this as our personal invitation to join with us at Saint Bartholomew's Church, 82 Prospect Street, White Plains, on Sunday, September 13, at 4:00 P.M. as we thank God Almighty for His many gifts bestowed upon each of us.

The Celebrant will be our Provincial Chaplain of Province II, Fr. Frank L. Knight, and our Superior will preside and preach.

We especially ask your prayers for our Brothers who will be advanced within the Order at this Service of Thanksgiving: The Superior will receive the Renewal of the Annual Vows of Profession of Brs. Christian, Kevin James, Jason Jude and Luke Anthony, Brs. Anthony Francis, John Peter, William Francis and Stephen Joseph will make their First Vows of Profession; and Br. William will be Received into the Novitiate of the Brotherhood.

As is our custom, a reception will follow the service. Clergy and Religious are invited to Process (R.S.V.P.: 914-949-5577). Clergy: white stoles.



Our new Postulants, Brs . Brendan and Edward Peter, with Br. Richard Thomas, Superior and Br. James, Assistant Superior

St. Bartholomew's Church White Plains, Our "HOME" and scene a f General Chapter

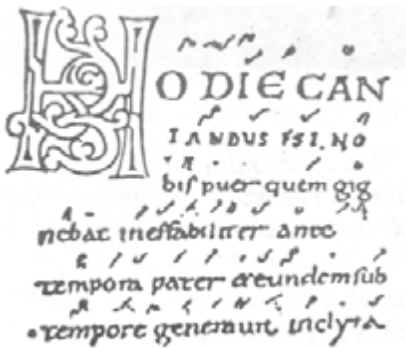


Assembling the SERVANT, sorting zip codes: l.-r. Brs. Anthony Francis, Stephen Joseph, William Francis (back) Edward Peter and the Superior. A little behind the scenes shot !

GREGORIAN CHANT

The exact origin and early development of Gregorian chant are unknown, but the manuscripts and traditions that have come down to us witness to the grandeur of this ancient form of liturgical praise.

Chant, or the singing of liturgical texts, developed in many of the early churches. It began as a monotone recitation, elaborated by the use of certain patterns, figures and cadences. The exact sources are unknown, though it seems that the psalmody was derived from the Hebrew chant, influenced by the contemporary Greek modal system. In addition, there may have been influence from the native music of the various regions. This process, begun within the first century of the Christian Era, resulted by the sixth century in extensive musical collections in each church: the Ambrosian (in Milan), the Mozarabic (in Spain and Africa), and the Gregorian (in Rome). For most of this period the chant was not written down, but transmitted orally, and performed with the aid of hand signals.



10th century neums

The first written notation consisted of elaborated accent marks called neums placed directly above the text in the manuscript. Later, staff notation allowed more exact indication of pitch and interval, and it is in this form that we know the chant today.

The role of St. Gregory the Great in the codification of the Roman chant is partly legendary, but it seems clear that he had at least some part in the editing of the music which subsequently bore his name. His earliest biographers state that he personally supervised the Roman choir-school, and since the Gregorian Mass-music was substantially set by the seventh century, it would seem evident that this pope had a definite role.

As the Church of Rome extended its influence, its music went with it, aided by such figures as the Emperor Charlemagne, and by the 11th century the Gregorian chant had absorbed the music of the other regional churches. From that time to the 16th century was the golden age of Gregorian chant.

The 17th century, saw its decline, largely at the hands of "improvers," and the advent of polyphonic church music, which required meter, and measure (the absence of which makes plainchant "plain") eventually sealed the fate of the by then corrupt chant.

The early 19th century saw a few attempts to revive the chant, but lack of proper scholarship, and the irrepressible desire to "improve" resulted in a hodgepodge of doubtful authenticity. It was for the Benedictines of the congregation of France to bring accurate scholarship to the republication of Gregorian chant, and the Solesmes editions, such as the Liber Usualis, are the basic source for 20th century performance and adaptation.



St. Gregory dictating the chant at the inspiration of the paraclete (13th century)

INTERCESSION

FOR THE ILL

POPE JOHN PAUL, II

BR. NORMAN CROSBIE, SSF

FOR THE DEPARTED

ALFRED V. SLADE, SR.

FOR THE CLERGY, All Bishops, Priests and Deacons, especially:

RT. REV'D JOHN M. ALLIN

MOST REVD ROBERT A. K. RUNCIE

RT. REV'D PAUL MOORE, JR. (Visitor)

RT. REV'D HORACE W. B. DONEGAN

RT. REV'D MATTHEW P. BIGLIARDI

RT. REV'D PHILIP A. SMITH

RT. REV'D WILLIAM G. BLACK

Rev'd Elwyn D. Brown

Rev'd Robert R. Parks

Rev'd Stuart K. Frane

Rev'd Thomas F. Pike

Rev'd Henry N. Fukui

Rev'd Robert Pollard, III

Rev'd J. Norman Hall

Rev'd Thomas R. Schulze

Rev'd Errol Harvey

Rev'd Henry G. Turnbull

Rev'd Frank L. Knight

Rev'd Robert J. Vanderau

Rev'd Ledlie I. Laughlin, Jr.

FOR THE RELIGIOUS ORDERS,

The Visitation Nuns Society of Saint Francis
Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm

The Sacramentine Nuns
Taize
Community of the Holy Spirit

SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR:

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfolk, England. Br. Matthew Joseph, BSG
the Companions of The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.
Brother Martin, SCK
Br. Robert Hugh, SSF who has been appointed acting Minister Provincial of the Society
of Saint Francis.
the parish of Saint Paul's on the Green, Norwalk, Connecticut, as they begin their
Parochial Mission entitled "Renewal in Christ".
the parishes of Grace Church and Christ Church, Norwalk, Connecticut.
Jerry Moize and William Williams.
the General Chapter of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.

THANKSGIVINGS FOR:

the anniversary of the Life Profession of Br. Richard Thomas, BSG, Founder and
Superior.
the Renewal of of the Annual Vows of Brs. Christian, Kevin James, Jason Jude, and
Luke Anthony, BSG.
the First Profession of Vows of Brs. Anthony Francis, John Peter, William Francis
and Stephen Joseph, BSG.
the Reception into the Novitiate of Br. William, BSG.
the birthdays of Brs. Stephen Joseph, Tobias Stanislas and Brendan, BSG.
the ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons of Rev'd Thomas John Davidson, Obl/OHF
the First Profession of Vows of Brs. Aaron, David Burgdorf, Gordon Peter and John
Rohim, SSF.
the ordination to the Sacred Priesthood of the Rev'd Robert J. Warner, SA